

including a suction band in said smoking material rod making machine,
said suction band having a travel direction and forming a smoking material deposition
run having a start and an end;

applying a suction force to said suction band;

depositing particulate smoking material on said suction band along said
smoking material deposition run between said start and said end of said smoking
material deposition run;

feeding fibriform smoke-modifying material longitudinally to said smoking
material rod-making machine along a longitudinal feed path in said smoking material
rod-making machine, said longitudinal feed path being in said travel direction of said
smoking material deposition run of said suction band of said smoking material rod-
making machine;

causing said longitudinal feed path of said fibriform smoke-modifying
material to ascend toward said suction band under the influence of said suction force
at a distance along said smoking material deposition run intermediate said start and
end;

supporting said fibriform material and maintaining said fibriform material
at a position spaced from said suction band by said particulate smoking material
deposited on said suction band before, in said travel direction, said ascent of said
longitudinal feed path; and

depositing additional particulate smoking material on said suction band

Sub 7 along said smoking material deposition run after, in said travel direction, said ascent of said longitudinal feed path.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 further including providing said fibriform smoke-modifying material in the form of a single, continuous, fibriform element.

B 21. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 further including selecting said intermediate distance along said deposition run to be in a mid zone of said deposition run between said start of said deposition run and said end of said deposition run.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 21 further including selecting said intermediate distance along said deposition run to be located between about 25% and about 60% of a length of said deposition run taken from said start of said deposition run.

23. (Amended) The method according to claim 22 further including selecting said intermediate distance along said deposition run to be located between about 25% and 40% of said length.

24. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 further including causing said feed path of said fibriform smoke-modifying material to ascend at an angle and controlling said angle of said ascent of said feed path of said fibriform smoke-modifying material so that said angle of said ascent is not more than about 5 degrees from horizontal.

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 further including feeding said fibriform smoke-modifying material to said smoking material rod-making machine at a fixed speed in relation to a speed at which said smoking material rod-making machine is run.

26. (Amended) A method of incorporating fibriform smoke-modifying material in a smoking rod material, said method comprising:

providing a smoking material rod-making machine;

including a suction band in said smoking material rod-making machine, said suction band having a travel direction and forming a smoking material deposition run having a start and an end;

applying a suction force to said suction band;

depositing particulate smoking material on said suction band along said smoking material deposition run between said start and said end of said smoking material deposition run;

feeding a fibriform smoke-modifying material to said smoking material

rod-making machine along a longitudinal feed path, said longitudinal feed path in said smoking material rod-making machine extending in said travel direction of said smoking material deposition run of said suction band of said smoking material rod-making machine;

providing a fibriform smoke-modifying material guide in said smoking material rod-making machine;

constraining said fibriform material by said guide in said smoking material rod-making machine to follow said longitudinal feed path spaced from said suction band and to be constrained against movement in response to said suction force toward said suction band until a distance along said smoking material deposition run intermediate said start and said end of said smoking material deposition run, said fibriform material being supported and maintained at a position spaced from said suction band by particulate smoking material deposited on said suction band before, in said travel direction, and by said guide ; and

depositing additional particulate smoking material on said suction belt along said smoking material deposition run after, in said travel direction, said guide.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including providing said fibriform smoke-modifying material as a single, continuous, fibriform element.

Sub C3 28. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including feeding said fibriform smoke-modifying material to and into contact with said particulate smoking material as a sequence of discrete fibriform elements.

B 29. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including selecting said intermediate distance along said deposition run to be in a mid zone of said deposition run between said start of said deposition run and said end of said deposition run .

30. (Amended) The method according to claim 29 further including selecting said intermediate distance along said deposition run to be located between about 25% and about 60% of a length of said deposition run taken from said start of said deposition run.

31. (Amended) The method according to claim 30 further including selecting said intermediate distance along said deposition run to be located between about 25% and 40% of said length.

Sub C4 32. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including feeding said fibriform material along said longitudinal feed path which extends beneath said smoking material deposition run at a constant vertical distance from said suction band.

33. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including providing said guide having a configuration such that said feed path ascends toward said suction band.

34. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including providing a streamlined fairing on said guide.

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35. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including providing a flow path for said particulate smoking material and enlarging said flow path of said particulate smoking material in the vicinity of said guide.

36. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including varying said suction force along said smoking material deposition run overlying said guide relative to said suction force along a remainder of said smoking material deposition run.

37. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 further including feeding said fibriform element to said smoking material rod-making machine at a fixed speed in relation to a speed at which said smoking material rod-making machine is run.

38. (Amended) A method for incorporating a fibriform element in a smoking material rod, said method comprising:
providing a smoking material rod making machine having a suction band

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exerting a suction force for supporting and transporting particulate smoking material deposited on said suction band;

feeding a fibriform element to said smoking material rod making machine along a longitudinal feed path;

entering said fibriform element [enters] into said smoking material rod making machine at a distance spaced from said suction band;

causing said fibriform element to ascend toward said suction band due to said suction force, said fibriform element contacting a layer of said particulate smoking material already deposited on said suction band; and

depositing additional smoking material on said suction band and on said fibriform element subsequent to said entering of said fibriform element into said smoking material rod machine.

Please add new independent claims 39-43, as follows:

39. (New) A method of incorporating fibriform smoke-modifying material in smoking rod material, said method comprising:

feeding longitudinally a fibriform smoke-modifying material as a sequence of discrete fibriform elements to a rod making machine along a feed path, wherein said feed path in said machine extends in a travel direction of a smoking material deposition run of a suction band of said machine;

constraining said fibriform material by a guide in said machine so that said fibriform material follows said feed path spaced from said run of said suction band and is constrained against a suction force toward said run until at a distance along said deposition run said fibriform material becomes supported and is subsequently maintained at a position spaced from said run by a particulate smoking material deposited on said run; and

depositing additional smoking material on said run.

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40. (New) A method of incorporating fibriform smoke-modifying material in smoking rod material, said method comprising:

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feeding longitudinally a fibriform smoke-modifying material to a rod making machine along a feed path, wherein said feed path in said machine extends in a travel direction of a smoking material deposition run of a suction band of said machine and wherein said feed path in said machine ascends toward said smoking material deposition run;

constraining said fibriform material by a guide in said machine so that said fibriform material follows said feed path spaced from said run of said suction band and is constrained against a suction force toward said run until at a distance along said deposition run said fibriform material becomes supported and is subsequently maintained at a position spaced from said run by a particulate smoking material deposited on said run; and

depositing additional smoking material on said run.

41. (New) A method of incorporating fibriform smoke-modifying material in smoking rod material, said method comprising;

feeding longitudinally a fibriform smoke-modifying material to a rod making machine along a feed path, wherein said feed path in said machine extends in a travel direction of a smoking material deposition run of a suction band of said machine;

constraining said fibriform material by a guide in said machine so that said fibriform material follows said feed path spaced from said run of said suction band and is constrained against a suction force toward said run until at a distance along said deposition run said fibriform material becomes supported and is subsequently maintained at a position spaced from said run by a particulate smoking material deposited on said run;

providing a streamlined fairing on said guide; and

depositing additional smoking material on said run.

42. (New) A method of incorporating fibriform smoke-modifying material in smoking rod material, said method comprising;

feeding longitudinally fibriform smoke-modifying material to a rod making machine along a feed path, wherein said feed path in said machine extends in a travel direction of a smoking material deposition run of a suction band of said machine;

constraining said fibriform material by a guide in said machine so that said fibriform material follows said feed path spaced from said run of said suction band and

is constrained against a suction force toward said run until at a distance along said deposition run said fibriform material becomes supported and is subsequently maintained at a position spaced from said run by a particulate smoking material having a flow path and being deposited on said run;

enlarging said flow path of said particulate smoking material in a vicinity of said guide; and

depositing additional smoking material on said run.

43. (New) A method of incorporating fibriform smoke-modifying material in smoking rod material, said method comprising:

feeding longitudinally a fibriform smoke-modifying material to a rod making machine along a feed path, wherein said feed path in said machine extends in a travel direction of a smoking material deposition run of a suction band of said machine, said suction band being provided with a suction force;

constraining said fibriform material by a guide in said machine so that said fibriform material follows said feed path spaced from said run of said suction band and is constrained against said suction force toward said run until at a distance along said deposition run said fibriform material becomes supported and is subsequently maintained at a position spaced from said run by a particulate smoking material deposited on said run;

varying said suction force at said portion of said smoking material